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SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE: BIODATA ON NEW GUEBUZA CABINET (PART III)

REFS: (A) MAPUTO 184

(B) MAPUTO 161

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Introduction

[1](#). (U) This is the third message in a series of biographical reports on cabinet ministers recently appointed by President Guebuza. Sources include official ministerial biographies, local media reports, and information obtained from Embassy contacts.

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Tomas Mandlate, Minister of Agriculture

[1](#)2. (U) Tomas Mandlate replaces Helder Muteia as Minister of Agriculture. Mandlate previously had served since 2000 as governor of the northern province of Tete. He is an educator by profession. Before his appointment as governor, Mandlate was a senior official in the Ministry of Education, serving in various positions including Provincial Director of Education in Gaza and Director of Primary Teachers Training Center in Matola. Mandlate sits on FRELIMO's 177-member Central Committee.

[1](#)3. (SBU) As governor of Tete Mandlate made progress in developing the province's agriculture sector. Mandlate is known for both his competency and his arrogance. Press reports indicate he will need to temper the latter characteristic to effectively manage the upper ranks of his ministry.

Salvador Namburete, Minister of Energy

[1](#)4. (U) Salvador Namburete leaves his post as Vice Minister of Trade and Industry to become Minister of the newly formed Ministry of Energy -- an offshoot, along with the Ministry of Mineral Resources, of the former Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy. (Esperanca Laurinda Bias is the new Minister of Mineral Resources - see para 14 below.) Namburete holds a degree in Economics from Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo (1992), as well as a Master's in International Trade and Finance from Lancaster University in the UK (1994) and a Master's in Finance from American University in Washington DC (1998).

[1](#)5. (U) Namburete began his public service career in 1982 at the then-Ministry of International Trade. He held various positions within the Ministry, including Head of Training and Development (1983-1984), Regional Director of the Northern Trade Zone (1986-1987), National Director of International Trade (1989-1996), and Advisor to the Minister of Trade and Tourism (1996). From 1996 to 1998 Namburete served as Economic Advisor to Mozambique's Embassy in Washington and Mission to the United Nations in New York. Namburete served at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva in 1999-2000.

16. (SBU) The Ministry of Energy has been given the main areas of responsibility from the former Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy. Production of gas, coal and oil, as well as refining all fall within the mandate of the Ministry of Energy, leaving only commercial mines and informal mining with the new Ministry of Mineral Resources.

17. (U) Namburete served as FRELIMO deputy in Nampula from 1985 to 1987. Namburete has a reputation for being open minded and dynamic. He was born December 27, 1955 in Inhambane province.

Cadmiel Muthemba, Minister of Fisheries

18. (U) Cadmiel Muthemba retains his post as Minister of Fisheries, to which he was appointed in January 2000. Muthemba served as Inspector General in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (1995-2000) prior to his appointment as Minister.

19. (U) In 1983 he was named Director General of the milling company, MOBEIRA, a position he occupied until 1987 when he was appointed as governor of Tete province. He served as governor of Tete until 1995.

110. (SBU) In May 1965 Muthemba and a group of 75 FRELIMO loyalists were jailed after being caught trying to secretly to cross the Swaziland-South Africa border. He spent more than 7 years in prison in Mozambique. Upon his release in 1972 Muthemba resumed his secondary school education. However he eventually dropped out in September 1974 to become a part of FRELIMO's post-independence government. Muthemba was elected to the FRELIMO Central Committee in 1983 and served as its secretary from 1995 to 1997.

111. (U) Muthemba was born July 20, 1945 in the southern province of Gaza.

Esperanca Machavela, Minister of Justice

112. (U) Esperanca Machavela replaces Jose Ibraimo Abudo as Minister of Justice. Machavela is a lawyer who worked for many years in the Foreign Ministry, including as Ambassador in Havana and Lisbon. She also served in the Mozambican Embassy in the United States

113. (SBU) In his February 2 inauguration speech, Guebuza singled out the justice sector, promising that his government would strive to strengthen institutions responsible for public security and the administration of justice. But critics in the press are skeptical that Machavela will have the political will and even the backing from Guebuza to be effective in her post.

Esperanca Laurinda Bias, Minister of Mineral Resources

114. (U) Esperanca Laurinda Bias takes over as Minister of the newly formed Ministry of Mineral Resources, created from the breakup of the former Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy. (Salvador Namburete takes over the Energy portfolio - see para 4 above). She had been Vice Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy. Bias received a degree in Economics from Eduardo Mondlane University in 1990. In 1983 Bias joined the National Mining Company, where she worked first as Head of Administrative Services and then as Department Head until 1984. From 1984 to 1991 she worked for the Gems and Precious Stones Company as Department Head, Director of the Gem Cutting Industry, and later Director General of Gems and Precious Stones. In 1991 Bias began her career with the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy. She was promoted from Deputy Director of Coal (1991-1994) to Deputy Director of Economics (1994-1998), and finally to Director of Economics (1998-2000).

115. (SBU) Bias is considered a technocrat and not part of the FRELIMO inner circle. She is not expected to have a strong position in government.

116. (U) Bias was born July 28, 1959 on Ilha de Mozambique in Nampula province. She is a member of the Committee of Working Women (COMUTRA), an organization that focuses on women's working conditions and role within trade unions.

Isabel Manuel Nkavadeka, Minister in the Presidency for Parliamentary Affairs

117. (U) Isabel Manuel Nkavadeka has been appointed to the newly created post of Minister in the Presidency for Parliamentary Affairs. From 1990 until her appointment as Minister she was a senior official within the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. She was also a FRELIMO deputy in the

National Assembly from 1994 to 1999, where she worked as a member of the International Relations Committee. She holds a degree in International Relations from the Higher Institute for International Relations in Maputo. NKavandeka began to work with FRELIMO in 1976, and was elected as a member of FRELIMO's Central Committee at the party's third congress in 1977.

18. (SBU) She is considered an open individual and was reportedly an active participant in parliamentary affairs during her tenure in the National Assembly.

19. (U) She was born in 1955 in Cabo Delgado.

Felicio Zacarias, Minister of Public Works and Housing

20. (U) Felicio Zacarias leaves his position as governor of Sofala province to replace Roberto White as Minister of Public Works and Housing. Zacarias is an agricultural engineer by training, though he did not complete his university degree. Instead, he abandoned his studies in 1971 to begin work, before being called for military service in 1974. In March of the same year Zacarias defected from the colonial army to join FRELIMO. Following independence he began work in the agriculture sector, holding positions with the Ministry of Agriculture and various private sector agribusinesses (1979-1997). Before being appointed governor of Sofala province in 2000, Zacarias served as governor of his home province, Manica. He is a member of the 177-member FRELIMO Central Committee.

21. (SBU) Zacarias is recognized for his tough stance against corruption. As governor of Sofala, Zacarias cracked down on contractors involved in building low-quality infrastructure at inflated prices and conducted unannounced inspections of provincial government institutions. There were many who expected Zacarias to be appointed Minister of Interior due to his anti-corruption efforts.

22. (U) Zacarias was born on September 10, 1953 in the central province of Manica.

Venancio Massingue, Minister of Science and Technology

23. (U) Venancio Massingue is Minister of the newly formed Ministry of Science and Technology. Massingue was formerly Vice Chancellor of Administration, Resources and Information Technology at Eduardo Mondlane University (1996-2005). In 1992 he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering there, while completing specialized coursework in computer hardware at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. Before assuming the position of Vice Chancellor, Massingue served as director of the University's Informatics Center (1986-1993) and then as a lecturer in the Department of Information Technology (1993-1996).

24. (SBU) Massingue is a member of the Mozambican Informatics Policy Task Force for Development of National Information Policy, and was the chairperson for the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) of the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) under the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Massingue and Salomao Manhica, President of the National Institute of Communications, are considered the gurus of information technology in Mozambique. Massingue is the only PhD in the Cabinet.

25. (U) The Ministry of Science and Technology was created from part of what used to be the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. The other part of the former ministry has become the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Antonio Francisco Munguambe, Minister of Transport and Communication

26. (U) Antonio Francisco Munguambe replaces Tomaz Salomao as Minister of Transport and Communication. Munguambe is a long-serving official in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC), who spent most of the 1980's negotiating various international trade agreements, including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Lome Convention. From 1994 to 1999 he served as Vice Minister of Commerce. After this he apparently remained in MIC, but at an unknown capacity. Before working for MIC, Munguambe was the director of the textile company, Encatex.

27. (SBU) Munguambe is rumored to be a business partner of President Guebuza.

Feliciano Gundana, Minister for Veterans' Affairs

¶28. (U) Feliciano Gundana was one of the first to join the FRELIMO movement, participating in its founding Congress in 1962. Gundana was one of only a few FRELIMO guerrillas who received training in Algeria, prior to the 1964 start to the war of independence. After independence Gundana held various posts, including governor of Inhambane (1978-1980), governor of Nampula (1980-1986), governor of Zambezia (1986-1987), and a Minister in the Presidency (1987-1994). Gundana was also the Secretary General of FRELIMO from 1991 to 1995 and a deputy in the National Assembly from 2000 to 2005. He is a member of the FRELIMO Central Committee.

¶29. (U) Gundana is the oldest member of the cabinet, born in 1940 in Machanga district, Sofala province.

David Simango, Minister of Youth and Sports

¶30. (U) David Simango leaves his post as governor of Niassa province to replace Joel Libombo as Minister of Youth and Sport. As governor, Simango was instrumental in the creation of an ombudsman office to mediate conflicts between businesses and the government. Prior to arriving in Niassa in 2000, Simango, who hails from Maputo, was a FRELIMO deputy in the Maputo municipal assembly. Before that Simango served with distinction as Director for Education of Maputo city. He successfully fostered cooperation among his colleagues, which allowed him to address some of the school system's many shortcomings, in particular overcrowding of schools. He is a member of the FRELIMO Central Committee.

¶31. (SBU) Simango is described in the press as open and accessible, qualities that will be necessary to succeed in this post.
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